

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this finds you well? Lots has been happening since our return from the February as you can read all about here:

Iftar

We are delighted that this year a group of Sixth Formers are organising an iftar meal next week for their sixth form peers. This is something we have wanted to do for a few years and we hope that next year we can go large scale and share in breaking fast with many more of our Academy community.

Uniform reminder

Thank you for ensuring that your child comes to the Academy with the correct uniform. All students should wear their blazer (the jumper is optional) and must have school shoes. Our uniform policy states that, apart from days on which students are required to wear their PE kit with trainers, the rest of the time their shoes must be plain black, (laces and stitching included) with closed toes. Boots are not permitted. Shoes should be made of leather or a similar material, and trainers, or any kind of canvas shoes or plimsolls are not permitted. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you in line with our policy, trousers must be black tailored trousers, which means no tight, flared or skinny styles.

KS3 'How to learn effectively' sessions

These started last week and have continued this week. Dr. Greene has led this initiative whereby younger students are taught to think about how they learn as well as how to best revise and retrieve subject knowledge. We refer to this skill as metacognition and all the research says that the earlier we can instill good metacognition in students, then the more effective their learning will be. It is also really important for them to consider different revision strategies and how to manage their working memory well. Do ask your child if they are in Year 7, 8 or 9 about these sessions!

Year 12 Higher Education and post-18 choices launch event

It was lovely to see so many of you with a child in Year 12 last week. All the more so as unwittingly we organised this event to start only 30 minutes before sunset. However one very thoughtful parent brought a large bag of dates to share in breaking fast with those around him. There were some excellent presentations from the Construction Youth Trust, Overbury (who provide apprenticeships), and one of our alumni, Vuk, talking about his experience as an apprentice for BNP Paribas. The final talk was from Mike Nicholson, Director of Recruitment at the University of Cambridge. Following the main talk, we had two follow up workshops - one around applications for Medicine and a discussion panel for those applying to Oxbridge.

British Science Week

This week we have been celebrating British Science Week in the Academy, with a range of activities organised by the Science department. Students have had the opportunity in lessons, during lunchtime and after school to explore various activities relating to this year's British Science Week theme "Change & Adapt". It's been wonderful to see the students enjoy exploring Science activities outside of the curriculum and deepen their understanding of the subject.

Year 10 Mock Interviews next Wednesday

As we have done in previous years, Year 10 will have the opportunity to have short, 20 minute interviews with a range of external partners next week. This is part of our Careers preparation activities for this year group. For many

students, this is the first time they will have experienced an interview-style conversation with an unfamiliar person. It is always a great opportunity to practice those skills ahead of their work experience placements later in the year. Please do ask your child how they found it.

Sports Day - Friday 11th July

I am pleased to be able to confirm a date for this year's sports day for your diaries - which is 11th July, in the afternoon. It has been increasingly difficult to arrange this event, due to the popularity of Battersea Park and arena. Thank you to Mr Pritchard for persevering and securing a date, and we look forward to sharing the plans for the day, later in the year.

Chaplain's message - Rev. van Kan

Over the past four days, we have had the pleasure of welcoming curates from the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) as they explored how the church works with and supports local schools and academies. Their visit has been a blessing, offering fresh insights into how faith can have a greater impact on the school community. During their time with us, they have witnessed the strong partnership between the church and school in worship, pastoral care, and daily life. As they continue their ministry, we pray that this experience will equip and inspire them to support schools within their own churches. May God bless and guide them in the journey ahead.

As a final reminder, please don't forget that the Academy is closing at the end of period 5 next Thursday, at 2.35pm, to allow for an earlier start to Year 10 Progress evening that day.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Upcoming and important dates

Wednesday 19th March - morning - Year 10 Mock interviews

Wednesday 19th March - 5.00 pm - Sixth Form Iftar

Thursday 20th March - 2.35 pm - **Academy closes early for all students**

Thursday 20th March - 3.15 pm - 6.45 pm Year 10 Progress Evening (including Work Experience Information)

Friday 21st March - all day - Year 12 visit to the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair

Friday 4th April - Year 11 Futures Day (further details to follow) and Easter service

Friday 4th April - Academy closes for the Easter holiday from 12 pm for students